

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 28, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 8-11, 22, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mack (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,044) in view of Myrick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,852), and further in view of Lorenz (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,922). Claims 12-21, 23, 24 and 30-39 are currently withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 8-11, 22, and 26-29 for at least the following reasons.

Claims 8, 22 and 26

With respect to claims 8, 22 and 26, the Examiner asserts that

Mack teaches the use of a lookup service in a network system wherein a user queries the lookup service to acquire access to further locations within the network, the lookup service including the ability to send the requestor necessary information in order to complete the connection, *deemed functionally equivalent to applicant's claimed stub or serialized object*.

Office Action (June 28, 2006), p. 3, ll. 7-11 (citing Mack, col. 4, ll. 30-35; col. 6, ll. 33-45 and FIGS. 7-8).

Initially, Applicants note that in order to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, "all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (8th Ed., Rev. 2, May 2004), p. 2100-129 (emphasis added). Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner cannot establish *prima facie* obviousness merely by showing an alleged "functional equivalent" of the claimed service item containing one of a stub or serialized object for use in accessing at least one of the services.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Mack. Mack describes a system 10 for establishing a network telephone connection between a caller PC 14 and a callee PC 18. With reference to FIG. 7, the portions of Mack cited by the Examiner describe the operation of the "lookup server 194."

In step 700, a caller 14 sends a request to a lookup server 194. This request includes a user identifier that is unique to the callee 18. For example, a user identifier can include a person's name, postal address, electronic mail address, social security number, and other commonly used identifiers. In step 702, the lookup service 194 queries an association table with the user identifier for *a user network access provider machine address and also the user telephone number*. In step 704, the look-up service 194 sends the caller 14 this *user address and telephone number*.

Mack, col. 6, ll. 37-45 (emphasis added).

The "information" that the lookup server sends to the caller 14 is not specified to be either a stub or a serialized object. Nor is this information "functionally equivalent" to a stub or serialized object, as alleged by the Examiner. Rather, the information is described only as an address and telephone number. The form in which the information is maintained is not specified.

Further, neither Myrick et al. nor Lorenz are relied upon to teach the claimed stub or serialized object, and neither of these references cure the above-noted deficiency of Mack. Rather, Myrick et al. discloses an "address look-up table" which contains the addresses of workstations residing on a local area network (LAN). Myrick et al., col. 1, ll. 48-60. And Lorenz discloses a "memory look-up table 30" that contains pointers to addresses in a memory. Lorenz, col. 4, ll. 9-13.

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Mack, Myrick et al. and Lorenz (whether viewed singly or in any combination) do not teach or suggest the claimed

service item containing one of a stub or serialized object for use in accessing at least one of the services. Even if the “address and telephone number” of Mack is “functionally equivalent” to a stub or serialized object, as alleged by the Examiner, the Examiner has shown no suggestion or motivation to modify the system of Mack to produce the claimed invention.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the Examiner’s rejections of claims 8, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) lack support in Mack, Myrick et al. and Lorenz, taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 8, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 9-11 and 27-29

Claims 9-11 and 27-29 depend from one of claims 8 and 26. As explained, the Examiner’s rejection of claims 8 and 26 lacks support in Mack, Myrick et al. and Lorenz, whether taken alone or in any combination. Therefore, the rejections of claims 9-11 and 27-29 likewise lack support in Mack, Myrick et al. and Lorenz for at least the same reasons given above with respect to independent claims 8 and 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 9-11 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Conclusions

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

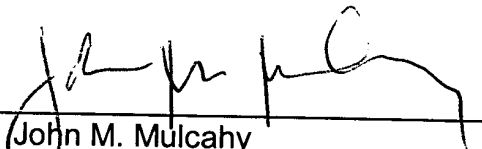
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 27, 2006

By: _____


John M. Mulcahy
Reg. No. 55,940